

Technical Update

for Municipal Drinking Water Systems

Engineers' Reports

The Drinking-Water Systems Regulation (O. Reg. 170/03), made under the Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002 (SDWA), continues a requirement for owners of large and small municipal residential drinking water systems (as defined in the Act and the regulation) to submit an Engineer's Report on the state of their systems to the Ministry of the Environment.

The report must be prepared by a qualified professional engineer (who is not an employee of the drinking-water system owner), in accordance with the ministry's Terms of Reference and submitted to the ministry not later than the date stipulated in the regulation.

The requirement for Engineers' Reports was introduced by the Drinking Water Protection Regulation (O. Reg. 459/00) in August 2000. One significant change to the requirement is that the reports will be due within a five year period rather than within a three year period as required by O. Reg. 459/00.

Engineers' Reports are not required by the regulation for non-residential municipal drinking water systems (as defined under the regulation).

Engineers' Reports and existing approvals

If an engineer's report was submitted for a municipal residential drinking water system prior to

the effective date of the regulation, the next report must be submitted to the Director not later than the fifth anniversary of the date the report was required to be given under previous regulation 459/00. This will represent a change from dates specified on the Certificate of Approval for the system respecting when the next report is due. These new regulatory requirements prevail over requirements which may have been specified in an approval issued prior to the effective date of O. Reg. 170/03 for municipal residential drinking water systems.

The Terms of Reference has been modified such that an Engineer's Report respecting a drinking water system that receives all of its water from another municipal residential drinking water system and does not provide any additional treatment, shall consist of a letter to the Director describing the location of the system, identifying the system from which water is being obtained, and stating that no further treatment is being provided.

While approvals and Engineers' Reports are not required by the regulation for drinking water systems other than municipal residential systems, existing approvals that may have been issued previously for such systems, including any conditions respecting the submission of Engineers' Reports, remain in place until such existing approvals are amended or revoked. When this revocation occurs, the requirements for subsequent Engineers' Reports will also be revoked.

Engineers' Reports must be prepared in accordance with *Terms of Reference for Engineers' Reports for Water Works* available on the ministry's web site.

For more information, contact:
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